



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

November 17, 2016

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider:

Please be advised that the VFC program's national vaccine distributor, McKesson Specialty, and Merck (varicella-containing vaccines only) will not ship VFC vaccines during the dates below.

There will be no VFC vaccine shipments on:

- November 22, 2016 - November 25, 2016, and
- December 20, 2016 - January 2, 2017

To receive a vaccine order in December, place your order before December 12, 2016. You must order by this date even if your practice normally orders in the second half of the month.

As reminder, **you must complete VFC annual re-enrollment by November 30, 2016** to maintain your ability to order vaccines distributed through VFC. To re-enroll, you will need to complete and submit your 2017 VFC re-enrollment form in the VFC section of the CIR Online Registry at www.nyc.gov/health/cir. Prior to completing this form, the physician-in-charge, vaccine coordinator, and back-up vaccine coordinator at your facility will need to take the two required annual web-based trainings developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): *You Call the Shots Module 10: Vaccine Storage and Handling 2016* (Course #WB2596) and *You Call the Shots Module 16: Vaccines For Children 2016* (Course #WB2597). Course completion certificates must be saved onto your computer and uploaded to the 'Training Requirement' section of your re-enrollment form. Please refer to the re-enrollment notice attached for additional information.

Please email us at nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call 347-396-2405 should you have questions or need assistance.

We thank you for your efforts to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

October 4, 2016

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Colleague:

The New York City (NYC) Vaccines for Children (VFC) program 2017 re-enrollment is now open. **You need to complete annual re-enrollment by November 30, 2016** to maintain your ability to order vaccines distributed through VFC. Before re-enrolling, review the VFC program requirements in the re-enrollment form at <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/nyc-med-cir/vaccines-for-children-program.page>. By re-enrolling you agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the NYC VFC program.

To re-enroll, you will need to complete and submit your 2017 VFC re-enrollment form in the VFC section of the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) Online Registry at www.nyc.gov/health/cir. Prior to completing this form, the physician-in-charge, vaccine coordinator, and back-up vaccine coordinator at your facility will need to take the two required annual web-based trainings developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): *You Call the Shots Module 10: Vaccine Storage and Handling 2016* (Course #WB2596) and *You Call the Shots Module 16: Vaccines For Children 2016* (Course #WB2597). Course completion certificates must be saved onto your computer and uploaded to the 'Training Requirement' section of your re-enrollment form. **Only certificates with a date in 2016 will be accepted.** For instructions on completing the trainings, obtaining certificates, and uploading certificates, refer to the attached "Accessing You Call the Shots Modules."

Please note there are 3 updates to the VFC program (see below). This notice should give you sufficient time in advance of deadlines to take the necessary steps to come into compliance.

- 1) CDC has required that our VFC vaccine replacement policy be updated (see attached) to require that 100% of vaccines spoiled or expired due to negligence must be replaced on a dose per dose basis. This will be effective as of December 1, 2016.
- 2) **Continuous digital data logger (DDL) thermometers with a buffered encased probe will be required for all storage units as of January 1, 2018.**
- 3) **Use of stand-alone freezers and stand-alone refrigerators will be required as of January 1, 2018.** These units are proven to better maintain stable, in-range temperatures. Using stand-alone units will help you avoid temperature excursions commonly identified by DDL thermometers in household, combined units. Excursions often lead to vaccine spoilage and recall of patients for revaccination.

To help providers transition to the DDL thermometer requirement, we are conducting a pilot project. Participating providers receive DDL thermometers free of charge. If you are interested in joining the pilot, contact Brenda Senyana at 347-396-2480.

For questions, please email us at nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call 347-396-2404. We thank you for your efforts to protect NYC children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc